

SCH. SCEPTRE ARRIVES.

First of Ice Imprisoned Herring Fleet Reaches Home.

WENT AWAY DECEMBER 18TH.

Capt. Cahoon Tells Interesting Story of the Voyage.

With the sheathing around her water line torn off and scarred in many places, a reminder of long contact with the ice floe, sch. Sceptre, Capt. Wilson Cahoon, arrived here yesterday afternoon, the first vessel of the imprisoned herring fleet at Bay of Islands, N. F., to break clear from the ice and return to her home port.

The story of the imprisonment of the fleet at Wood Island is by this time an oft told tale, worn almost threadbare. Tinged with romance and garnished with privation reports, it has been served up almost daily and always in some new light, when as a matter of fact from the time the ice froze in solid around the vessels until the day when they tried to start for home, the existence of the men of the fleet was of the most humdrum order with little in the way or nature of excitement to vary the monotony.

Capt. Cahoon, however, has several interesting bits in regard to the doings of the fleet there which has not previously been published. The vessel has been 126 days from home, having sailed from here for Bay of Islands December 18 and the skipper when seen by a TIMES representative this morning expressed himself as much pleased to be home once more.

In speaking of how his vessel came to be caught he said that she was loading in one of the arms and having herring enough in sight, he left his mate with orders to rush and complete loading and take the vessel to Wood Island, where he would join him. In the meantime he went on the Harlow to Birchy Cove on the Humber to get some money from the bank, in-

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leading to come right back on the steamer.

At the bank there was some delay and he could not get his money until the next day and then a heavy snow storm set in. Being anxious to get to his vessel, Capt. Cahoon started to walk 15 miles over the mountains through the heavy snow, which was almost waist deep. The first day he made six miles and next day he got to Frenchman's Head. The storm still prevailed, and a big offer from the captain was no inducement for the natives to attempt to set him on board his vessel.

The slob ice was now coming in, and almost distracted he was compelled to stay there two days in full sight of his vessel, and see her drift back and forth with the others in the ice and not be able to reach her.

After two days he got on board and then he and the other captains did not then think but what they would get out in a few days. On January 23 the ice broke up, and Capt. Cahoon decided to make the attempt for home, the others following. He worked his vessel out through the ice to Weebald, although a heavy southwest snow storm was raging, making the chance a desperate one. It seems that the other vessel did not get out by the Sceptre and found herself in open water. Capt. Cahoon was elated and felt that they were fairly free but before six miles had been covered, the vessel ran into an ice field. It was moving rapidly at the rate of five miles an hour, Capt. Cahoon says, but he put his vessel into it until he could get her no farther feeling that

NETTERS IN.

Reach New York with Small Mackerel Fares.

Report Few Mackerel but Plenty of Dogfish.

A special to the TIMES from New York this morning reports the arrival of sch. Gardner W. Tarr, netting, Capt. John McKinnon, with 380 large fresh mackerel. Capt. McKinnon reports mackerel scarce and dog fish plenty.

The steamer F. S. Willard also arrived at New York this morning with 150 large fresh mackerel.

Four more small netting fares arrived at New York just before noon, as follows:

Sch. Nellie Grant, 21 large mackerel.
Sch. Eliza Benner, 133 large mackerel.
Sch. Vesta, 140 large mackerel.
Sloop Minerva, 155 large mackerel.

A net fisherman of Prospect, N. S., made a haul of a few mackerel one day the first of last week.

He was engaged in netting herring and to his surprise in picking one of his nets, found a few mackerel mixed in with the other fish.

This is exceptionally early for mackerel to appear on Cape Shore.

AGAIN BOUND HOME.

Herring Fleet Once More Clear of Bay of Islands.

Heavy Easterly Drove Ice Away from Land.

A St. John's, N. F., dispatch of Monday states that the American herring vessels that have been imprisoned in the ice floes in Bay of Islands since January 18 escaped from the ice last Saturday.

Despatches received at St. Johns, N. F. from Port-au-Port, St. George, Codroy River and Cape Race declare that the ice has been driven away from the land by a heavy easterly gale. This enabled the herring vessels to escape from the Gulf of St. Lawrence into the Atlantic.

Smuggling Herring Charged.

Wilford S. Alexander of Eastport was brought before United States Commissioner Hamlin in Bangor yesterday, charged with smuggling 3000 boxes of herring into Eastport from Campobello on July 31, 1902. The case was continued. Alexander is assistant cashier of the Frontier National Bank at Eastport, and was arrested there by Deputy Marshal Hasty. The case will be tried later in Portland. It is charged that Alexander has been engaged in extensive smuggling of smoked herring across the frontier.

Bank Cod Sale.

The fare of sch. Effie M. Morrissey sold to Cunningham & Thompson.

The fare of sch. Independence sold to Slade Gorton & Co. at Board of Trade prices.

Bait.

The Consolidated Weir Co. wires us that there is plenty of herring at the Powder Hole, Monomoy.

CAUGHT A TILE FISH.

Sch. Lizzie Maud Brought One in from Cashes.

Sch. Lizzie Maud, which arrived here from Cashes on Friday, brought in among her fare a tile fish which was placed on exhibition at E. O. Brown's market, where it attracted considerable attention.

April 21nd

DAILY TIMES FISH BUREAU.

To-day's Arrivals and Receipts.

Sch. Sceptre, Bay of Islands, N. F., 900 bbls. frozen herring.
Sch. Gossip, Peak, 40,000 salt cod, 40,000 lbs. fresh cod.
Sch. Effie M. Morrissey, Peak, 12,000 lbs. cod.
Boats, 10,000 lbs. fresh cod.

Vessels Sailed.

Sch. Maud M. Story, Georges.
Sch. Altama, netting.
Sch. Vera, shacking.
Sch. Bertha May, Rips.
Sch. Massasoit, netting.
Sch. Dorothy, Rips.
Sch. Rebecca, seining.
Sch. Ella M. Goodwin, shacking.

Today's Markt.

Board of Trade prices: Large handline Georges cod, \$4.00 per cwt.; medium do., \$3.00; large trawl Georges, \$3.75; medium do., \$3.00; handline cod from deck, caught east of Cape Sable, \$3.75; medium do., \$3.00; large trawl bank cod, \$3.00; medium do., \$2.75; large dory handline cod, \$3.25; medium do., \$3.00.

Board of Trade splitting prices on fresh fish—All cod caught on Le Have Bank and to the westward: Large, \$2; medium, \$1.40; all cod caught to the eastward of Le Have Bank, large, \$1.75; medium, \$1.25; snapper cod fish, 40 cts.; cusk, \$1.30; haddock, 75 cts.; hake, 90 cts.; pollock, 50 cts.

Georges halibut, 17 cts. per lb. for white and 12 cts. for gray.

Rips cod, \$4 per cwt. for large and \$3 for medium.

Bank halibut 12 1-4 cts per lb. for white and 8 1-4 cts. for gray.

Fishing Fleet Movements.

Sch. Mertie and Delmer of Chatham is at this port to fit for seining.

Sloop Maxwell is fitting for mackerel netting under command of Capt. James McDonald.

Sch. Nellie Dixon of Boston is at this port to fit for seining.

Good Fishing.

Sloop W. H. Clement, Capt. Percy M. Reed, landed 7000 pounds of fresh cod at Rockport Saturday.

Halibuter Seen Up North.

Capt. Wilson Cahoon of sch. Sceptre reports seeing the fresh halibuting sch. Squanto up off Cape Auguilla.

THINK FISH SCATTERED.

reared That Easterly Broke Up Mackerel Schools.

A letter from the TIMES regular correspondent at Fulton market, New York, states that the netting fares on Tuesday, though small, show that some fish are in sight. They have had no reports from any of the seiners and think that the fish were well scattered by the storm of last week.

Newfoundland Seal Catch.

The Newfoundland seal fishery this year will result in a total catch of at least 315,000 seals, as against 274,000 seals caught last year. The price this year is higher. The total value of the sealing product last year amounted to \$833,000; it will probably reach \$1,000,000 this year. If it does, it will be the most successful seal hunt in the history of the colony.

Good Stock.

Sch. Triton, Capt. Wm. Gould, stocked \$1944.03 on her recent Georges trip, the best of the spring season.